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1979-80 GYMNASTICS OUTLOOK

MISSOULA--

Depth in all-around competitors should boost team scores for the University of Montana gymnastics team in the 1979-80 season.

Terry Hamilton, in his first year as head coach, has added seven all-arounds to the squad. They are Wendy Honchell, Mercedes Gonzalez, Shawn Leary, Cathy Sowl, Sue Reitzel and Cindy Whitehill.

Honchell, as a freshman, is a strong all-around gymnast. Balance beam is the strongest event for the Colorado native.

Her teammate, Gonzalez, is a "very talented gymnast," according to Hamilton. He predicts it will take Gonzalez four years at the college level to develop to her full potential. Her hometown is Vancouver, Wash.

From Helena, Mont., Leary placed sixth in all-around at the state high school meet last year. "Shawn has a really exciting uneven bar routine," Hamilton said.

Sowl, Alaska's all-around state champion for the past two years, was recruited for Anchorage. She competed in high school against Kari Shepherd, UM's only returning all-around.

"They are both very competitive," Hamilton said. That rivalry has been transferred to other team members also.

Two specialists strengthen the UM team. They are senior Judi Carlson (bars) and freshman Kit Curry (vault).

Hamilton is satisfied with the team's progress in the pre-season workouts. He is confident that Montana will be a viable contender in Region 9 this season.

(over)

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
1979-80
GYMNASTICS ROSTER

Kari Shepherd	Anchorage, AK	Sophomore	AA
Judi Carlson	Salem, OR	Senior	UB
Mercedes Gonzalez	Vancouver, WA	Freshman	AA
Cathy Sowl	Anchorage, AK	Freshman	AA
Sue Reitzel	Mourd, MN	Freshman	AA
Kim Kins	Libby, MT	Freshman	AA
Kit Curry	Missoula, MT	Freshman	V
Wendy Honchell	Littleton, CO	Freshman	AA
Cindy Whitehill	Marshalltown, IO	Freshman	AA
Shawn Leary	Helena, MT	Freshman	AA